CLAIMS:

1. A spinning toy comprising a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, a string attached to the shaft in the gap whereby the toy can be spun on the string, and a release mechanism for releasing the attachment of the string on the shaft while the toy is spinning.

2. The spinning toy claimed in claim 1, wherein the release mechanism protrudes radially from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and is activated to release the string from the shaft in response to a force on the release mechanism.

3. The spinning toy claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the string is affixed to a spindle that mounts on the shaft and spins thereon.

4. The spinning toy claimed in claim 3, wherein the release mechanism urges the shaft to move axially to release the spindle from the shaft and thereby allow the string to detach from the shaft.

5. The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein one end of the shaft is spring mounted inside one of the disc bodies.

6. The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein the spindle is captured between the disc bodies and held therebetween on the shaft, and whereby an axial movement of the shaft widens the gap between the disc bodies, hence releasing the spindle.

7. The spinning toy claimed in claim 6, wherein catches in the gap assist in holding the spindle on the shaft.

8.   The spinning toy claimed in claim 4, wherein the shaft is provided with two different sized diameters, wherein the spindle is attached to the shaft at the larger diameter and axial movement of the shaft exposes the

5   smaller diameter thereby allowing the spindle to detach from the shaft.

9.   The spinning toy claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the release mechanism includes a trigger

10   protruding from the circumference of one of the disc bodies and a biased tab moveable in response to movement of the trigger.

10.   The spinning toy claimed in claim 9, wherein the tab

15   has an elongate or large round opening through which the biased shaft extends and is held therein, whereby movement of the tab releases the shaft to axial movement.

11.   The spinning toy claimed in claim 9 or claim 10,

20   wherein the trigger is a lever pivoted to the same disc body containing the release mechanism.

12.   The spinning toy claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further including a clutch engageable with the

25   shaft that prevents axial movement of the shaft, and that disengages from the shaft under centrifugal forces.

13.   The spinning toy claimed in claim 12, wherein the clutch is weighted and spring mounted to an interior

30   circumference of a disc body.

14.   The spinning toy claimed in claim 13, wherein the clutch is an elongate arm that is spring mounted to the housing at an approximate center of the arm and has a lug

35   at an approximate center that engages with a complementary slot in the shaft.

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15. The spinning toy claimed in claim 11, wherein the trigger pivots approximately 90° in either direction from an extended position to a down position.

16. The spinning toy claimed in claim 6, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the shaft by approximately 180°.

17. The spinning toy claimed in claim 8, wherein the spindle is a part circular shape that encircles the larger diameter of the shaft by more than 180° but less than 360°.

18. A method of using a spinning toy having a pair of spaced disc bodies connected by a transverse shaft forming a gap therebetween, and a string attached to the shaft in the gap, the method including:

spinning the connected disc bodies relative to the string by unwinding the disc bodies from the string;

lowering the spinning disc bodies towards a surface to activate a release mechanism that releases the string from the shaft; and

retaining hold of the string and allowing the disc bodies to freely roll along the surface.

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By their Patent Attorneys
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